IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: James K. Falbo et al.    Atty. Dkt. No.: NTI-030

Assignee: Numerical Technologies, Inc.

Title: SHAPE-BASED GEOMETRY ENGINE TO PERFORM SMOOTHING AND OTHER LAYOUT BEAUTIFICATION OPERATIONS

Serial No. 10/040,055              File Date: 12/31/2001

Examiner: unknown                          Art Unit: 2825

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March 13, 2002

BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D. C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Before taking action in this case, please amend the specification as indicated.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

**Paragraph 0006 should be replaced with:**

[0006]    Unfortunately, due to the complexity of modern IC layouts, detecting and correcting this type of layout imperfection (a technique sometimes referred to as "layout beautification") can be difficult.  A method sometimes used to eliminate notch-type imperfections involves applying an oversizing/undersizing technique to entire polygons using a DRC tool.  As indicated in Fig. 1d, each edge of polygon 100 is biased outward (oversized).  As this biasing takes place, notch 111 formed by edges 102-104 shrinks and eventually disappears. The remaining edges can then be biased inward (undersized) to create a corrected (un-notched) polygon having the same overall dimensions as the original polygon 100.